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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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JUL 19 2002

In re application of

Technology Center 2100

CHOU, KEHSING J., et al.

Group Art Unit: 2172

Appln. No. 09/399,696

Examiner: NGUYEN, T.

Confirmation No. 2558

Filed: September 21, 1999

For: THE ARCHITECTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A DYNAMIC RMI SERVER
CONFIGURATION HIERARCHY TO SUPPORT FEDERATED SEARCH AND
UPDATE ACROSS HETEROGENEOUS DATASTORES

PRELIMINARY RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following remarks are presented in response to the Office Action dated May 23, 2002.

REMARKS**I. Introduction**

Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the application, and claims 1-18 were examined. For the reasons given below, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of all the pending claims.

II. Disqualification of Commonly Owned Reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c)

According to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c),

subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this